

January 17, 2002

6195 '01 JAN 23 A11:54

Re: Petition #98P-0151/CP1

Prohibit Slaughter of Downed Animals

U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Last year the USDA banned ground beef from downed animals, animals who are too sick or weak to walk to slaughter on their own, in federal programs such as the National School Lunch Program. The wisdom of this decision should be extended to all use of downed animals; animals who are too sick even to stand should never be used for food.

In addition to increased risk of bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some of these animals may be afflicted with BSE(Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, the "Mad Cow Disease" which has been spreading across Europe, a disease linked to fatal human illness.

Furthermore, it is impossible to move downed animals humanely; they are typically pushed with tractors, dragged with chains, forced to move by electric prods or beating and kicking - brutal means which cause abrasions, torn ligaments, and broken bones and brutalize the workers who handle animals.

Downed animals comprise a small percentage of animals slaughtered so prohibiting the marketing of them will cause no undue economic hardship. Furthermore, industry experts estimate that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing any market for these animals will be an incentive to industry to provide better care of animals in the first place.

Please ban any use of downed animals in the United States.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Ann Mallow

98P-0151

C3549

Ms. Ann C. Mallow
315 Hartzell St.
Evanston, IL 60201-1401



Handwritten signature or initials, possibly 'HJG'.

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